

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of providing a bone implant comprising:
demineralizing a block of cancellous bone having a first geometry;
wetting the block;
compressing the block from the first geometry to a second geometry smaller
than the first geometry;

10 permitting the block to harden after the block has been compressed to the
second geometry.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the second geometry is configured
15 and dimensioned as a pellet.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the second geometry is configured
and dimensioned as a cylinder.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second geometry is configured
and dimensioned as a generally flat shape.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second geometry is configured
and dimensioned as a donut-like shape.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second geometry is configured
and dimensioned as a dumbbell shape.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
exposing the block to a swelling agent.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
inserting the block into an anatomical space.

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9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
re-expanding the block to a third geometry larger than the second geometry.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the third geometry is smaller than the
first geometry.

5 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
inserting the block into a spinal cage.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
re-expanding the block to a third geometry larger than the second geometry.

10 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the third geometry is smaller than
the first geometry.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
wherein the step of wetting the block comprises hydrating the block.

15 15. A method of providing a bone implant comprising:
demineralizing a block of cancellous bone having a first configuration;
softening the block;
compressing the block from the first configuration to a second configuration
20 smaller than the first configuration;
permitting the block to harden after the block has been compressed to the
second configuration.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of softening the block
25 comprises applying at least one of water and a swelling agent to the block.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
inserting the block into a space;
re-expanding the block to a third configuration larger than the second
30 configuration.

18. A method of providing a bone implant comprising:
softening a block of demineralized, cancellous bone having a first volume;
compressing the block to a second volume smaller than the first volume;
35 permitting the block to harden after the block has been compressed to the
second volume.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
inserting the block into a space;
re-expanding the block to a third volume larger than the second volume.

5 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the space is an anatomical space.

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